

a cylinder for stopping the inward movement of the outer piston at a given position before the completion of the inward movement of the inner piston.

Q2 3. (Amended) A tire building apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the group of the segments has a tensile elastic means stretching in the radial direction in the enlargement of the size of the segment and is provided on inner end portion in the radial direction with a wheel rotatably contacting with a slant face of the inner piston.

Q3 5. (Amended) A tire building apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the group of the segments has a push-locking face at a first size-enlarging stage adapted to have a clearance of 0.5-1.0 mm to an inner face of the bead portion of the green tire and a push-locking face at a second size-enlarging stage pushingly locking the bead portion of the green tire.

a4 8. (Amended) A tire building apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the pressurized gas supplying device for supplying two kinds of high-pressure and low-pressure gases in the gas pressure acting means comprises a first check valve, a pipe connecting a gas inlet port of the check valve to the gas space and a pipe connecting a gas outlet port of the check valve to the gas path, and the first check valve has a cracking pressure exceeding a pressure of a low-pressure gas but being less than a pressure of a high-pressure gas.

9. (Amended) A tire building apparatus according to claim 7, wherein a gas pressure acting means comprises a vacuum means and a change-over valve switching connection to the

a4 vacuum means and connection to the gas space in the pressurized gas supplying device, and the gas space is communicated with the pressurized gas supplying device and the vacuum means through the change-over valve.

Please enter the following new claims.

11. (New) A tire building apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said stopper is positioned at least partially between said inner piston and said outer piston.

a5 12. (New) A tire building apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a substantial portion of said inner piston is positioned between a surface of said outer piston closest to said segments, and said segments.
